

NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
318 South Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Tel: 217/492-4450

JAN PAUL MILLER
U.S. ATTORNEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



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Contact: David E. Risley
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(217) 492-4450

Two Men Charged with Multi-kilo Cocaine Distribution Conspiracy in Springfield

Springfield, IL- The United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Jan Paul Miller, announced that Troy Powers, age 32, of 2266 Laurel, Springfield, Illinois and Nester I. Castaneda, 25, of Chicago, have been arrested and charged in related criminal complaints with conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine in Springfield. Castaneda has also been charged with one additional count of distribution of at least five kilograms of cocaine.

Both defendants made initial appearances in federal court in Springfield, Illinois, on September 14, 2005, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore. Both were ordered detained in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service pending detention hearings scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2005.

The affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint charging Powers alleges that officers investigating an alleged domestic battery incident in August 2005, developed information identifying Powers as an alleged supply source for cocaine in the Springfield area. Powers was arrested on September 7, 2005, following a controlled drug purchase in Springfield, according to the affidavit.

The affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint charging Castaneda alleges that Castaneda was delivering cocaine intended for Powers, when officers arrested Castaneda in Pontiac, Illinois, on September 13, 2005. According to the affidavit, when Castaneda was arrested, officers seized approximately seven kilograms of cocaine from a shopping bag that Castaneda had delivered to Powers.

Members of the public are reminded that the complaints are merely accusations; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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If convicted, the offense of conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine carries a statutory penalty of a mandatory minimum ten years to life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$4,000,000. With one prior felony drug conviction, the mandatory minimum statutory penalty increases to 20 years to life imprisonment; with two or more prior felony drug convictions, the penalty is life imprisonment.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration; Springfield Police Department; Illinois State Police Drug Task Force Six; the Central Illinois Enforcement Group; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department and the Pontiac Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David E. Risley.

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